

Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-006

Acreage: 1987.4

Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Description

The unit of BLM land identified as CO-060-006 is adjacent to the American Flats Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and the Uncompahgre Wilderness, meeting the size requirement criteria. The northern border is the American Flats WSA and Forest Service land, the southern border is the Alpine Loop (3303). The eastern border is 3300 and the western border is the Uncompahgre Wilderness and private land/patented mining claims.

(1) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

High topographic relief provides a variety of vegetation such as aspen/spruce in the lower elevations and grasses/wildflowers in the higher alpine tundra areas. Boulder Gulch runs through the parcel from north to south, joining with Henson Creek. Steep, rocky terrain is found throughout the parcel. The main human use of the parcel is access to patented mining claims/private land.

(2) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

There is a high influx of motorized travel along the Alpine Loop (3303, southern border) in the summer months, however this is not considered during the inventory process and with the high topographic relief and features stretching north into CO-060-006, outstanding opportunities for solitude exist throughout the majority of the parcel.

Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides opportunities for unconfined and primitive recreation such as hiking, backpacking and wildlife viewing as well as access to the Uncompahgre Wilderness and American Flats WSA with an estimated ± 400 visitors annually.

(3) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value)?

Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A ☐

Description

This parcel provides outstanding viewpoints of the surrounding San Juan Mountains and it contains a low level of lynx habitat.

Summary of Analysis

Area Unique Identifier: CO-060-006

Result of Analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☒ Yes ☐ No
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive or unconfined type of recreation? ☒ Yes ☐ No
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Check one

 X The area, or portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.

 The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

Prepared by (team members):

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(Name, Title, Date)

Reviewed by District or Field Manager:

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Date: 7/24/13

*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.